

News International Limited

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10th July 2009

Mr John Whittingdale MP
Chairman
CMS Committee
House of Commons
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Dear John,

In response to the invitation of the CMS Committee for an Executive of News International to appear Tuesday 21st July at 10.30am before the Committee to give further evidence, we believe, that the appropriate persons would be Colin Myler, Editor, News of the World and member of the News International Executive Committee, and Tom Crone, Legal Counsel.

As an editor and executive, Mr Myler welcomes the opportunity to outline the rigorous and sustained compliance programme that is in place at the News of the World and to refute allegations that illegal phone tapping was a widespread practice at the paper.

The Guardian coverage, we believe, has substantially and likely deliberately misled the British public. It is rushing out high volumes of coverage and repeating allegations by such sources as unnamed Met officers implying that "thousands" of individuals were the object of illegal phone hacking, an assertion that is roundly contradicted by the Met Commissioner's statement yesterday.

Moreover, the Guardian, and extensive television reports by the BBC, Channel 4, ITN and Sky News, have either deliberately or recklessly combined references to the Information Commissioner's report "What Price Privacy?" concerning the use of private investigators, in which all major print media -- including Guardian Media Group -- were involved, with specific and very limited evidence arising from the thorough investigations by the police into illegal phone interceptions by Glen Mulcaire and Clive Goodman which led to their convictions. In other words, The Guardian and television news channels have failed to make clear that there is no connection between the Information Commissioner's investigation and the allegation of illegally hacking into telephones or accessing telephone voicemail.

We believe it is essential to defend the reputation of the News of the World and News International as independent media that make a major contribution to life in Britain.

Yours Sincerely,

Rebekah Wade

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